

DRAFT
Q.I.C. Meeting – April 14, 2015
11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PRESENT: John Behn (QI Chairperson), Kobi Prettyman (Utah Foster Care Foundation), Rhonda Peterson (Carbon County Fairgrounds), Lori Savage (DCFS Associate Region Director), Patsy Buchmiller (Fostering Healthy Children), Carolyn O’Hearon (community member), Laurie Molinar (RUCD Head Start), Shelley Wright (CJC), Bobbie Brady (RUCD Head Start), and recorder Gretchen Howell (DCFS)

ABSENT: Josie Luke, Kevin Webb, Shawn Jack

Attendance Roster:

John passed around the attendance sheet for everyone to sign.

Guests/New Members:

Bobbie Brady with RUCD Head Start was a guest today.

Review and Approval of March QIC meeting minutes:

The March 2015 QIC meeting minutes were not sent out, an oversight by Gretchen. She sent them out by email today, please read and approve or make suggestion of changes.

Discussion of possible areas of interest for QI Committee:

Status of Comment Boxes:

The boxes are still in progress. They are not hanging well due to the design of the hanging bracket. Not all the boxes have been installed.

Status of Carolyn and Rick O’Hearon – Article:

Carolyn and Rick have not connected with Josie Luke yet to collaborate on the article. John’s has some recommendations for the article. John would like to replace the opening paragraph with the following paragraph: “Most people view the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) as an unwelcome visitor to the home. Many families find themselves forced to become participants or clients of this agency. We would like to share our experience with DCFS.” At the end of the article, “If people will accept DCFS and will do what they need to do to protect our children, they will help to preserve families.” The article can be contributed as anonymous or Carolyn and Rick can be listed as the authors. They have decided to have their names listed on the article. John will take the article to the Sun Advocate/Emery County Progress and ETV News. April is Child Abuse Prevention month.

Discussion of possible areas on interest for QI Committee:

Parents Support Group

Public Education of Positive Aspects of Child and Family Services

Are there any parent support groups currently in existence? The CJC and Bert Bruno encourages the parents to attend the child and family team meetings and don't leave until they have been heard and understand what is going on. The CJC offers parenting classes. Does JJS have a parent support group? There may be a number of support groups already in existence. John tried to start a family support group for families with LGBTQI members. The group was not attended and eventually dissipated. There is now PFLAG support. A monthly meeting for families involved with DCFS would help families navigate the system. The Foster Care Foundation has monthly meetings for foster parents; it would be good to have a support group for parents and families. The primary resource for the parents/families could be one or more DCFS employees. Lori suggested that this may involve the training team. What if parents are required to complete training when they become involved with DCFS. Carolyn said that having another "requirement" would be distasteful for families. John suggested that we get a group of trained volunteers (non-DCFS) that are willing to be advocates on an as needed basis for families. The volunteers would be a resource that the families could trust. Kobi said that it would not be feasible for the group to be on an "as-needed" basis, but a regularly scheduled meeting would be more helpful. Many parents are usually in denial when it comes to using drugs while parenting children. Having a person who has "been there" and stopped using drugs to become a better parent would be better received by families. There are two areas of concern, support and directions/instructions for families navigating the system.

Is the "Family Bill of Rights" handout being used? It is most likely not being given to parents during the initiation of any type of DCFS case. The CJC gives the families a packet of information. The CJC would be happy to incorporate the "Family Bill of Rights" handout as part of their packet. Placing the handouts in the Red Tag folder would also be helpful. The workers could print the "Family Bill of Rights" when they print out the CANAR for CPS cases. Lori will ask if this handout could be given to the CJC, and ask Shawn if this form is being utilized.

Head Start handed out Community Resource books for all QIC members.

The Community Resource books are a wealth of information. Rhonda suggested that some feelers are put out in the community to see if there are support groups, such as radio ads, newspaper ads, etc. A "toolbox" for families would be very valuable. Calling 211 on your phone gives you information on many resources.

Educating the agencies, the community, and parents on available resources is a key factor. Having an annual community resource training event is an excellent idea. Agencies, QIC, and support groups would be invited to attend. John thinks we could get donations for food/drink. We will discuss how to create training event at the May QIC meeting. Everyone will look at the calendar and see what time of year this event would work best. We will strategize at the next meeting.

Shawn's suggestion for a support group is different; he was meaning a support group for parents with children with behavioral issues. Lori said that a support group that offers that as well as how to navigate the DCFS system would work well in concert and help alleviate complaints and concerns. The role of QIC would be to help education the community of resources that can better support families. John can imagine being a caseworker and having "all these people" advising families telling them what to do and where to go. Laurie said Head Start does mentor families and give them all the information and resources the families will need. Lori will mention to Shawn that he is scheduled to talk about Homeworks at the next meeting.

Eastern Region QCR Information from Kristin Lambert:

- Dates – Mon & Tues, May 4th and 5th
- Location – DCFS office (to be determined)
- Time – 8:00 am to evening on Monday
- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesday
- Watch for email with attachments late next week
- Contact: Kristin Lambert, klambert@utah.gov, 801-297-0780

Adjourn:

We adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2015.